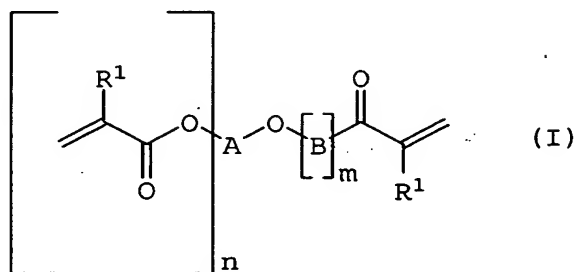


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of ~~the~~ a general formula  $\pm$  (I)



where wherein

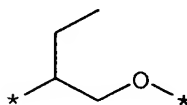
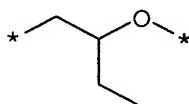
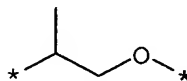
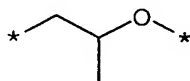
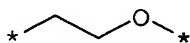
R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or methyl,

n is an integer from 2 to 5,

m is an integer from 1 to 100,

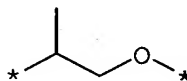
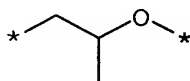
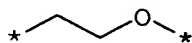
A is C<sub>3</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> alk(n+1)yl or C<sub>3</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> heteroalk(n+1)yl, and

B represents identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of



where wherein \* identifies the positions of  
attachment.

2. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic  
esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of ~~the general~~  
~~formula I as per~~ claim 1 ~~where~~ wherein  
 $R^1$  is hydrogen or methyl,  
 $n$  is 2 or 3,  
 $m$  is an integer from 2 to 50,  
 $A$  is  $C_3$  to  $C_{10}$  alk( $n+1$ )yl, and  
 $B$  represents identical or different radicals  
selected from the group consisting of



~~where~~ wherein \* identifies the positions of  
attachment.

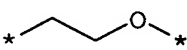
3. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of ~~the general formula I as per claim 1~~ wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or methyl,

n is 2,

m is an integer from 3 to 30,

A is C<sub>3</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> alk(n+1)yl, and

B is 

~~where~~ wherein \* identifies the positions of attachment.

4. (Currently amended) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of ~~the general formula I as per any of claims claim 1 to 3~~ in which formula wherein the polyol is glycerol.

5. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the (meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols ~~as per any of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, comprising the steps of

a) hydrolyzing ~~the~~ a partially protected monoalkoxylated polyol in the presence of at least one hydrolysis catalyst and water,

b) reacting the resulting monoalkoxylated polyol with (meth)acrylic acid in the presence of at least one esterification catalyst, ~~and of~~ at least one polymerization inhibitor, and optionally ~~of~~ a water-azeotroping solvent to form the (meth)acrylic ester of the monoalkoxylated polyol, ~~it being possible to carry out b) in the same reactor as a),~~

c) optionally removing from the reaction mixture some or all of the water formed in b), during and/or after b),

d) optionally neutralizing the reaction mixture, and

e) when a solvent ~~was~~ is used, optionally removing ~~this~~ the solvent.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Swellable~~ A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer ~~containing~~ comprising a copolymerized ~~internal crosslinker~~ (meth)acrylic ester of the general formula  $\pm$  (I) according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 4 as an internal crosslinker.

7. (Currently amended) A process for preparing crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymers ~~as claimed in claim 6~~, which comprises polymerizing an aqueous mixture comprising a hydrophilic monomer, optionally at least one further monoethylenically unsaturated compound, as least one (meth)acrylic ester of a monoalkoxylated polyols polyol of general formula (I) of claim 1, at least one free-radical initiator, and optionally ~~also~~ at least one grafting base, and optionally the ~~reaction mixture~~ hydrogel-forming polymer obtained being postcrosslinked, dried, and brought to the a desired particle size.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6.

10. (New) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 2 wherein the polyol is glycerol.

11. (New) (Meth)acrylic esters of monoalkoxylated polyols of claim 3 wherein the polyol is glycerol.

12. (New) The process of claim 5 wherein steps a) and b) are performed in the same reactor.

13. (New) The process of claim 5 wherein steps a) and b) are performed in different reactors.

14. (New) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 2 as an internal crosslinker.

15. (New) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 3 as an internal crosslinker.

16. (New) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising a copolymerized (meth)acrylic ester of general formula (I) according to claim 4 as an internal crosslinker.

17. (New) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 14.

18. (New) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 15.

19. (New) A hygiene article comprising a crosslinked swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 16.